

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-51 are currently pending in the present application, Claims 1, 18, and 35 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-9, 18-26, and 35-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; and Claims 10-17, 27-34, and 44-51 were allowed.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 1, 18, and 35 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 18, and 35 is found in Figs. 4 and 23, for example, and no new matter is added.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and are in condition for allowance.

In addition, the Specification is amended to track the changes to the claims without introducing new matter.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

I:\ATTY\JW\240283US\240283US.DOC